

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HONG K 06239 050904Z

21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SY-05

SCA-01 VO-03 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W

----- 056283

R 050805Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5293

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 6239

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, HK, CH

SUBJECT: SUICIDE OF EX-"KMT WAR CRIMINAL" IN HONG KONG

REF: HONG KONG 5220 ET AL.

1. THE TRAGIC AND APPARENT SUICIDE BY HANGING OF EX-"KMT WAR CRIMINAL" CHANG TIEH-SHIH ON JUNE 4 HAS MOVED THE PLIGHT OF THE TEN RECENTLY-AMNESTIED, OLD SOLDIERS SEEKING TO ENTER THE GRC BACK ONTO HONGKONG NEWSPAPERS' FRONT PAGES AND PROVIDED FURTHER FUEL FOR THE PRC'S STEPPED UP EFFORTS TO BLACKEN TAIWAN'S ALREADY BADLY TARNISHED IMAGE.

2. NEWS OF CHANG'S DEATH RECEIVED BANNER HEADLINES IN MANY OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR NEWSPAPERS. MEDIA REPORTS POINT OUT THAT CHANG, ALONG WITH NINE OTHER RECENTLY-AMNESTIED EX-"KMT WAR CRIMINALS" DESTINED FOR TAIWAN, ARRIVED IN HONG KONG FROM THE PRC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 HONG K 06239 050904Z

ON APRIL 14, HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH RELATIVES ON TAIWAN, AND

HAD JUST RECEIVED HIS FOURTH EXTENSION OF STAY IN HONG KONG AS HE AWAITED APPROVAL FROM GRC AUTHORITIES SCREENING HIS APPLICATION FOR ENTRY. THE NEWS REPORTS ALSO NOTED THAT CHAIRMAN OF THE PRO-TAIWAN KOWLOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ROBERT DER, HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE MEN AND HAD INDICATED THAT CHANG WAS AMONG THE FOUR "MOST LIKELY" TO BE ALLOWED ENTRY INTO TAIWAN. DER HIMSELF IS REPORTED TO BE CRITICAL OF TAIPEI'S HANDLING OF THE AFFAIR.

3. THE CONTENTS OF A REPORTED SUICIDE NOTE LEFT BEHIND BY CHANG WILL PROBABLY SHED FURTHER LIGHT ON THE REASON FOR HIS DEATH. HOWEVER, IN COMMENTING ON CHANG'S SUICIDE, THE PRESS HAS SPECULATED THAT HE PROBABLY FELT REJECTED BY HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN ON TAIWAN, DESPAIRED OF BEING GRANTED TAIWAN ENTRY, BELIEVED HE COULD NOT REMAIN IN HONG KONG AND WAS UNWILLING TO RETURN TO THE MAINLAND. THE EDITORIAL OF THE INDEPENDENT MING PAO(WHICH DEVOTED AN ENTIRE FRONT PAGE TO THE CHANG STORY) ASSERTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE MEN ARE PROBABLY PRC TOOLS, THE "SPIRITUAL COLLAPSE" WHICH LED TO CHANG'S SUICIDE SUGGESTS THAT THEY ARE NOT SPIES. UNSURPRISINGLY, THE STORY ALSO RATED PROMINENT TREATMENT IN THE LOCAL COMMUNIST PRESS.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE INDIRECT INQUIRY ON BEHALF OF CHOU YANG-HAO ABOUT A US VISA (REFTEL), THE US CITIZEN SON-IN-LAW AND DAUGHTER OF CHANG SHIH-CHANG RECENTLY HAVE TELEPHONED A CONGEN OFFICER TO INQUIRE ABOUT US ENTRY FOR HIM. THE CONTINUING LACK OF A FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO THE MEN'S REQUEST FOR TAIWAN ENTRY MAY WELL ENCOURAGE THE OLD SOLDIERS, UNCERTAIN ABOUT REMAINING IN HONG KONG, TO LOOK TO THE US AS A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE TO THAT OF RETURNING TO THE MAINLAND. ONE, TUAN KO-WEN, HAS ASKED NEWSWEEK'S SYDNEY LIU ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR "POLITICAL ASYLUM" IN THE US.

5. COMMENT: THIS TRAGEDY WILL FURTHER SUPPORT AND SPREAD PEKING'S VERY EFFECTIVE LINE THAT THE TAIPEI REGIME, ABANDONING IN DISTRESS ITS OLD SOLDIERS, WHO, HOWEVER MISTAKENLY, HAD AT LEAST FOUGHT FOR KMT AND NOT FLED, IS ON ITS OWN LAST LEGS AND COWERING IN FEAR.
CROSS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMNESTY, PENAL REFORM, DEATHS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK06239
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750196-0721
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750678/aaaactll.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 HONG KONG 5220
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUICIDE OF EX-"KMT WAR CRIMINAL" IN HONG KONG
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, HK, CH, (CHANG TIEH-SHIH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006